The Home Minister fixed 3rd May, 1989 for the meeting. This, however, did not materialise in view of the imposition of President's Rule in Karantaka State with effect from 21st April, 1989.

Allotment of land for private schools in Chandigarh

213. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for allotment of land for private schools pending with the Chandigarh Administration as on 31st March, 1989 ;

(b) the time since when these applications are pending and the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether land already allotted has been given at concessional rates?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED) : (a) 17.

(b) These applications were received during the period from 5/88 to 3/89. Decision could not be taken for the following reasons :—

(i) non-furnishing of necessary certificates regarding availablility of funds with the school ;

(ii) application not received in proper form and with full details;

(iii) non-verification of school's status;

(iv) non-availability of adequate land at the site asked for by the school concerned ; etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Statehood to Union Territories

214. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering the demand for granting state-hood to Delhi ;

(b) whether Government have received any representations from various Union Territories for grant of statehood including the Union Territory of Pondicherry ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to grant statehood to all these regions?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) The Committee on Re-organisation of Delhi Set-up has submitted its Report to the Government on the 14th December, 1989 and it is presently under consideration.

(b) and (c) No demand for Statehood has been received from any other Union Territory except Pondicherry, the Legislative Assembly of which has passed Resolutions demanding Statehood. The Resolutions have been noted.

Indo-Nepal talks to solve Trade dispute

215. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :
DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI KAPIL VERMA :
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYWANTRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to hold any negotiations with Nepal Government for solving the Indo-Nepal trade and transit dispute: and

(b) if so, by when the negotiations are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Government propose to talk with the Government of Nepal at an early date to resolve outstanding issues through a friendly dialogue. An invitation has been extended to Shri S. K. Upadhyaya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, to visit India. This visit is likely to take place in first week of January, 1990.

Withdrawal of Indian troops from Sri Lanka

216. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : *Will the Minister of* EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are following the policy of withdrawal of Indian troops from Sri Lanka ;

(b) if so, what is the total number of Indian troops returned from Sri Lanka during the last one year ; and

(c) what steps Government are contemplating for the safety and security of the Sri Lankan Tamils in Sri Lanka ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) By the end of the year six of the eighth Districts of the North-Eastern Province of Sri Lanka would have been vacated by the IPKF.

(c) Government have initiated steps to bring about amity between Tamil groups. At the request of the Prime Minister, Chief Minister Karunanidhi has already held talks with the LTTE for this purpose. Government are also in close touch with the Sri Lanka Government in order to ensure that arrangements for the safety and security of Tamils and other communities are strengthened simultaneously with the withdrawal of the IPKF.

Withdrawal of cases against Indira Gandhi Assassination accused

217. SHRI P.N. SUKUL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state what are the reasons that prompted Government to withdraw the charges pending in a Delhi Court against the accused in the Indira Gandhi assassination case ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): Prosecution in the case which is also known as the larger conspiracy case, was withdrawan as it was found expedient to do so in the broader public interest ; maintenance of peace and to help promote harmony among the people in the changed political situation.

Selection of programmes for Social cultural and economic transformation

218. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 32 programmes have been selected for creating more positive atmosphere in the country for social, cultural and economic transformation by Doordarshan, Akashwani, National Film Development Corporation, Films Division, DAVP, Directorate of Field Publicity and Song and Drama Division; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, alongwith the mode of their selection of programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) Devising programmes for socio-economic and cultural transformation by making people aware of the